

**Amendment to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph commencing on page 7, lines 5-19, with the following amended paragraph:

In this embodiment, the saw deck 54 in plan view has a substantially oval configuration defining a first end 58 and an opposite and second end 60. The deck assembly 54 includes a deck 62 having a generally C-shaped configuration wherein the gap [[64]] along one margin or edge of the oval deck 62 forms a throat 64 for receiving the work piece. The deck 62 may be reinforced and made substantially rigid by the integral downwardly depending skirt 66 depending from the periphery of deck 62 as well as ribs, bulkheads or flanges 68 depending from the underside of deck 62 and around throat 64. In its most rudimentary form, the deck 62 includes a cylindrical motor mount 70 terminating in a floor 72 and breached by centrally disposed hole 74. The cylindrical mount 70 and associated structure is adapted to receive a motor assembly 76 described in greater detail below. Proximate the first end 58 of the deck 52 is a second recess 78 terminating in a floor 80 and having an oval hole 82 formed therein. The recess 78 is intended to receive a tensioning assembly generally identified by reference number 84 in FIG. 9a described in greater detail below.

Please replace the paragraph commencing on page 7, line 24, and continuing through page 8, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 9a and 9b, one half 90 or other fraction of a handle assembly 92 may be integrally formed with the chassis 52 or deck 62. The handle assembly 92 includes a mating handle shell 94 adapted to mate with handle portion 90. Using the same injection molding method contemplated in the preferred method, appropriate mounting surfaces and structures can be formed in the handle assembly 92 to receive a safety switch 95 and a variable speed trigger 96. In the preferred embodiment, handle assembly 92 is angled relative to deck 62. Most preferably, the plane normal or perpendicular to deck 62 is disposed at an acute angle to a plane substantially parallel to the handle assembly 92. With the handle in this orientation, the center of gravity of the

saw is located below the handle and properly positions the saw blade parallel to the handle. In this way, the natural orientation of the user's hand greatly assists in providing better control of the cut.

Please replace the paragraph commencing on page 9, lines 5-9, with the following amended paragraph:

[[The]] A driven wheel assembly 124 mounted toward the opposite end of the chassis 52 includes a pulley or wheel 126 journaled to a post 128 extending from the carriage 130 of the tensioning assembly 84 disposed in sliding position within the generally rectangular recess 78. A fastener 132 and spacers/washers 134 are used to retain the driven wheel 126 in free spinning engagement on the tensioning assembly 84.

Please replace the paragraph commencing on page 9, lines 10-24, with the following amended paragraph:

The driven wheel 126 can be rotated or otherwise translated between a first and a second position relative to the drive wheel 114 through the tensioning assembly 84 located at one end of the saw. The tensioning assembly 84 includes the carriage 130 resting within the rectangular recess 78. The post 128 extends through the oval slot 82 formed in the recess floor 80 in order to receive the driven wheel. The carriage 130 also includes a structure 136 at one end which is intended to stabilize the relative position of one end of a compression spring or other biasing mechanism 138. The opposite end of the biasing mechanism 138 engages the wall 140 of opening 78 in order to urge carriage 130 toward the opposite end. The position of the carriage 130 may be changed with the aid of a cam pin 142 extending from cam shaft 144. The cam shaft 144, carriage 130 and biasing ~~member~~ mechanism 138 are retained within the recess 78 by a cover plate 146 which is fastened to deck 62, and contains a port through which the upper end of cam shaft 144 extends to be attached to a cam handle 148. Rotation of the cam handle 148 rotates cam shaft 144 and engages or disengages the cam pin 142 with carriage ~~[[132]]~~ 130 and translating the carriage ~~[[132]]~~ 130 toward or away from the biasing ~~member~~ mechanism 138.

Please replace the paragraph commencing on page 9, line 25, through page 10, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

As suggested in the foregoing text, the saw of this invention is a hand-held band saw. In a preferred embodiment, the continuous loop blade 150 may be changed to accommodate substantially any material ranging from steel or iron, plastics, or woods. The distance between the drive wheel and driven wheels is reduced by adjusting the biasing ~~member 128~~ mechanism 138. The desired blade is placed at least partially around the drive and driven wheels and the biasing ~~member~~ mechanism 138 is released to place the blade in tension. To properly orient the section of the continuous loop blade 150 at the proper angle as it traverses throat 64, bearings 152 and 154 are mounted at the distal ends of brackets 156 to engage the side of the blade 150. Although not shown, spacers may be used to adjust the position of the bearings 152 and 154. The brackets 156 are preferably "dog-legged" at a predetermined angle such that the bearings 152, 154 at the end engage opposite sides of the continuous loop blade and deflect the section of the blade 150 traversing the throat to the desired angle. In the preferred embodiment, the angle of the blade 150 traversing the throat may be substantially parallel to the plane of the handle assembly 92.